



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD TRAIL

The Friends of White River National Wildlife Refuge in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission are involved in a collaborative effort with engaging the Refuge's newest trail system—The Bottomland Hardwood Trail.

The initial effort, Phase I of trail building, is complete with the implementation of approximately 400 ft. of trail built with traditional methods cutting a natural bench into the escarpment, applying trail chat for tread, and that being lined with timbers. Following is a 30 ft. foot-bridge that allows the crossing of a meandering creek bed working its way down the escarpment. This opens up a straight pathway to the 1,384 ft. boardwalk. The boardwalk allows the visitor to engage four different interpretive bump-outs to rest, relax, and enjoy the natural world that surrounds them. Once you leave the boardwalk, the trail is marked by bright orange trail signage with hiking emblems and directional arrows that will direct you to the end of Phase I at the White River.

The second effort, Phase II of trail building, is complete with the implementation of two trail loops (inner and outer) that are marked by the same bright orange trail signage with hiking emblems and directional arrows that will direct you back to the start of the long boardwalk. The only item that will need to be completed is a footbridge or two to span a low lying area for people to continue back to the beginning.

Once the trail is complete, the visitor will be able to embark upon a 1.5 mile hike through a bottomland hardwood forest that truly provides a wonderful snap-shot of the Refuge as a whole.

Trail Difficulty: Easy to Moderate.

Contact Information:

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Photograph of the descent into the Bottomland Hardwoods.



Photograph of the end of the boardwalk to the start of the earthen trail to the river.



Photograph of the bright orange signs and White River behind it.



Photograph of the spot where you would return to if you walked the entire distance.